

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 24, 2010. Claims 3, 6, and 12 are in the application, all of which are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,497,997 (Glezer). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Glezer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,378,428 (Farina). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the disclosure of Glezer relied upon in the rejections is also disclosed in its related provisional application no. 60/436,569. See page 9, last paragraph, of the Office Action. However, Applicants respectfully submit that at least the following cited portions of Glezer are not present in the provisional application: column 37, lines 31 to 51; column 39, lines 9 to 36; column 43, lines 19 to 55; column 43, lines 56 to 65; column 45, line 52 to column 46, line 22; column 46, lines 23 to 65; column 46, line 66 to column 47, line 18; column 47, lines 19 to 35; column 49, line 53 to column 50, line 5; column 50, lines 6 to 33; column 54, line 46 to column 55, line 5; column 55, lines 34 to 48; column 57, line 63 to column 58, line 50; column 71, lines 51 to 67; column 75, line 38 to column 76, line 39; column 76, lines 40 to 52; and Figure 9. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that these cited portions are not available as prior art, in view of the December 16, 2003 filing date of Japanese priority application no. 2003-418560. A sworn translation of the Japanese priority application is being submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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